UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

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RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0203

SANTA BARBARA . SANTA CRUZ

THE A. GARY ANDERSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

(909) 787-6329 Administration

(909) 787-4551 Student Affairs - MBA/Business Admin.

(909) 787-8970 FAX

To:

Retha Dixon

Federal Election Commission

From: Sarkis Joseph (Joe) Khoury, Ph.D.

Date: September 24, 1998

Dear Ms. Dixon;

Thank you for your assistance and the explanations you provided me today. I wish to reconfirm as per our telephone conversation today that the 15 day period for resubmission begins today, and that I am expected to resubmit my complaint within this period. The complaint will be in compliance with the second paragraph of your September 3, 1998 letter.

I thank you for your patience and for your diligence.

Sincerely,

Sarkas Joseph Khoury

KHOURY FOR CONGRESS ON THE

P.O. BOX 51598 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92517 SEP 20 11 22 km 00

MUR 4816



To:

Federal Election Commission

Attention: Mr Lawrence Noble

Office of General Counsel

999 E St. NW

Washington, DC 20463

From: Sarkis Joseph (Joe) Khoury, Ph.D.

Date: August 11, 1998

RE: Charges against Ken Calvert and Cook Barela

Dear Sir;

ì.

I, the undesigned, Sarkis Joseph Khoury, of Riverside, California, formerly a candidate for the United States Congress in the 43rd. Congressional District in the state of California, hereby file a complaint with your office and request an immediate investigation of the Ken Calvert campaign and that of Cook Barela. Both gentlemen were candidates for the same office in the same election. I believe that there is sufficient evidence to establish a case that both may have violated FEC rules and campaign finance laws.

All the information I submit herewith is correct to the best of my knowledge. Based on this information and on numerous conversations with many individuals, I hereby affirm the following:

1-The candidacy of Mr. Barela appears to have operated as the equivalent of an independent expenditure for the Calvert candidacy. I believe that an investigation of the facts will show that the campaign was not "independent" according to the technical definition of the FEC. Therefore, I contend that a clear violation of the rules and the laws has occurred. Mr. Barela issued literature attacking me and only me. No mention was ever made of Mr. Calvert although Mr. Calvert was and is the incumbent.

Mr. Barela sent out in the last days of the campaign a "newspaper" style mailer extolling his accomplishments and attacking me based on falsehoods, race, race baiting, and national origin. Not one word against the incumbent was mentioned. The claim made in the newspaper regarding my PAC money was a lie and was almost verbatim the same exact claim made by Mr. Calvert whose mailer was sent out about the same time containing the same theme and language.

IOE KHOURY YOUR VOICE FOR VALUES

TEL 909-343-1998 FAX 909-352-3713

This is too much of a coincidence to constitute a random event. It is even more problematic when one considers the ethnicity of Mr. Barela who was desperately, or so he wanted us to believe, seeking Latino votes where the majority of the community is foreign born.

An examination of Exhibit I would confirm the similarity of the tone and the language used by both campaigns with regard to PAC contributions to my campaign. Your records show that my campaign accepted no PAC money in the 1998 election cycle. In fact, I had published a book in 1997 condemning PAC's.

Mr Barela did not show lack of enthusiasm for Mr. Calvert after the latter was caught with a prostitute in Corona. Exhibit II clearly shows that he was tolerant of Mr. Clavert's behavior and most supportive of his tenure in Congress since 1994. There is no evidence that he has had a change in heart.

There was also evidence of some coordination on the tactical level. For example, a voter inquiring about a debate scheduled for all the Republican candidates was told when he called to inquire about whether Congressman Calvert would be attending the debate that "The Congressman will not be present, but Cook Barela would". During the debate Mr. Barela questioned my loyalty to the United States as I am foreign born. Not a single word was uttered about Mr. Calvert leaving those in attendance with the clear impression that he was running only against me.

2-The financing of Mr. Barela shown in Exhibit III is another source of concern. The contribution of \$2,000 form an attorney in Bel Air, Mr. McNulty, which constitutes 2/7th of the funds raised by Mr. Barela and the timing of the contribution are reasons to be suspect. They warrant an investigation.

The whole campaign strategy deployed by Mr. Calvert was based on fear, lies and race. Many of the political types participated in the process. Mr. Barela was a willing, conscious, and illegal participant, I believe. The details of the strategy, would indicate that the independence of actions in both camps is extremely unlikely. The details are contained in Exhibit IV.

I would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

arkis Joseph Khourv

Sincerely

I hereby swear that the contents of this complaint are true to the best of my knowledge

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

NOTARY PUBLIC

Barbara Ann Martinez Z Comm. #1118681 INOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA D RIVERSIDE COUNTY Comm. Exp. Dec. 1 2000

EXHIBIT I

Yes, there is a Question of Loyalty and integrity!

THE NEWS - THE PRESS ENTERPRISE AND THE CONSERVATIVE VOICE WON'T PRINT!

Joe Khoury's Dual Citizenship status,

"He, is a citizen of Lebanon and of the United States, he can vote in elections in Lebanon and if he wants to he can run for political office in Lebanon, He can have two or more passports, if he wants to, that's all right with us. He has a Lebanese Identification card. "

Los Angeles Lebanese Consulate officer

"I only use, my American Passport," Joe Khoury at a candidate forum

Joe Khoury on PAC funds --

"I don't receive, not one, not one, not one dollar of PAC money."



The Truth- According to the Federal Elections Commission records,

Since 1982, Joseph Khoury has financially contributed to Arab PAC's and has received almost exclusively PAC funds

from Arab PAC's, in his congressional campaigns

6/19/1982 Contribution by KHOURY, SARKIS J PH D - S922.00 made to AMERICANS FOR LEBANON POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (ALPAC)

9 Committee contributions - for KHOURY, S JOSEPH ~ 1992

AMERICAN TASK FORCE FOR LEBANON POLICY COUNCIL PAC

Treasurer: DAVID J SADD, Treasurer 01/30/92 S200,00 contribution

05/13/92 \$2,000.00 contribution

INTERNET FEDERAL ELECTION INFORMATION SOURCES

- 1. http://lal.sdrdc.com/cgi-bin/feeimg/?C00158717
- 2. http://www.tmy.com/fecinfo/_states.htm
- 3. http://www.tray.com/cgi-win/candpg.exe?H2CA0x021*191998
- 4. http://www.trav.com/cgi-win/_ptoc.csc?H2CA(N))21KHOURY,\$\$\$JOSEPH92
- 5. http://www.tray.com/cgi-win/ candlook.exe?
- 6. http://www.tray.com/FECInfo/
- http://hcmdon1.sdrdc.com/cgi-bin/fccimg/?C00254052
- http://hcmdon1.sdrdc.com/cgi-bin/fecimg/?C(X)329391
- 9. http://www.tray.com/feeweb/1998/cund/house/0/2CA00021.htm

AMERICANS FOR LEBANON POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (ALPAC)

Treasurer: JOHN BARAKAT 01/01/92 \$1,000,000 contribution

06/01/92 St.(MO.M) contribution

MORGAN COMPANIES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (MORGANPAC)

Treasurer CORY N STRUPP 09/13/91 S250,00 contribution

PHYSICIANS INTERINDEMNITY/FED-PAC

Treasurer: SADRI M E1. FARRA 05/29/92 S500.00 contribution 10/17/91 S250.00 contribution "I don't believe our founding fathers designed a government that would allow for the election of congressmen who have a foot planted firmly in two separate nations, after all wasn't that what the war of 1812, was all about?"

COOK BARELA

1997 AMERICANS FOR LEBANON POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (ALPAC)

(Unknown Amount), committee terminated and funds were contributed to Khoury for Congress at Orange County PO Box #

1997-98 ARAB AMERICAN LEADERSHIP POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Treasurer: JAMES JOSEPH Z(XiBY - Funds contributed have been supposedly returned, no record to substantiate this found

Joe Khoury, "There is no Hispanic running..."

Response from the "Latino Leaders" that signed the letter

John M. Sotelo - Signed letter, didn't look at it much - I was thinking about Calvert. I was focused on getting Calvert out Luz Maria Ayata - I want to see that letter, I don't think, I don't believe I signed it. I would not have signed it.

Andres Luis Sata - no phone fax only, no return on fax inquiry

Glen Ayala I have not seen the letter. He came here to my house I liked what he said.

Mary Ayala - wife of Glen never spoke to her

Javier Rosales - It in was in a crowd, the letter was passed around. I was not aware there was a Hispanic running Jennie Rivers -I really didn't read the letter. I didn't have my glasses on. I saw where Glen and Mary had signed it, so I Richard Perez -Well. I heard that there were only two contenders. I never saw your name in the paper.

Amador Corona - I didn't know, why haven't we seen your name in the papers? I read them and haven't seen your name Tom C. Rulz - I didn't know there was a Latino running, why have you not come around, you should be a Democrat-

The following "Latino Leaders," that signed the letter, were Not registered to Vote.

Ignacio Leon Sr., Mario Perez, Alfred R. Figueroa, George Mesa, Anita M Garcez (Franco), Ralph V. Medina

"...ye do un beso, y le robo los calcetines...."

Translated from a Spenish conversation, with Hispanio congressional candidate Cook Barala.

"Joe Khoury gave the "Latino leaders," a kiss in the cheek while he stole their socks right from under them. Then he called them sophisticated to further obfuscate them."

THE AMERICAN HOMEFRONT - PAGE 3

In three elections Sarkis Khoury has received an average of 88% of his money from outside Riverside County.

1998 - 84% - \$353,000\$110,000 \$187,000 1992 — 91% % % % 1994



Sarkis Khoury lied about not taking PAC contributions. Campaign records show he has received money from:





Dear Fellow Republican;

My name is David Martin. I am your neighbor. I have lived here in the City of Riverside, near Riverside Plaza, for six years. I work hard for a living, just like you do and I care about the same things that you care about. My family, my country, my state, my country, my city, and my neighborhood.

So why did I put this flyer on your windshield or on your door? I hate flyers, and I hate it when people put flyers on my windshield or on my door. Well, I'll tell you why:

This is the most simple, effective way that I know of to communicate to you my disgust at Sarkis (Joe?) Khoury.

I am sick and tired of opening my mailbox each day to find yet another piece of Sarkis (Joe?) Khoury's rotten, misleading, anti Ken Calvert/anti Newt Gingrich/anti Republican Congress campaign literature. I have come to see Khoury for what he really appears to be: A desperate two time loser (1992 & 1994) who must seek foreign campaign contributions because he cannot even win the support of his own people here in his own home town.

Khoury's ads attempt to disparage the Ken Calvert/Newt Gingrich/Republican House Majority because of certain resolutions which Calvert/Gingrich and the Republican House voted for pertaining to Veterans. Seniors, and children. H.R.2160, 1158.3019,2491,2127, H.C.R. 67,178.

I disagree with you. Mr. Khoury! I believe that Ken Calvert. Newt Gingrich, and the Republican House voted exactly as I entrusted them to vote! I thank God for these fine Americans whom have stood up for what we believe in! Increasingly limited federal government and increasingly expanded local control!

I am proud of the leadership and vision that Newt Gingrich has provided to the Republican Majority House. I am proud of the earnest effort and hard work that the Republican House has put in during the last six years, and I am proud to tell people that my Congressman. Ken Calvert, is an important team player in the Republican House!

Who can you trust?

Sarkis (Joe?) Khoury?

Or a proven, tested, winner, Congressman Ken Calvert?

I am a Police Officer. I trust Ken Calvert.
I am a Veteran. I trust Ken Calvert.
I am a man whose parents depend on Social Security. I trust Ken Calvert.
I am your neighbor. I trust Ken Calvert.

David Martin RTWINGDAV à ten.net

EXHIBIT II

READERS' OPEN FORUM

Hurting the most needy

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

Proposition 175 states that the renters credit shall be against the net income tax. This is biased against the poor, singles and married, the retired, 65 and older, the blind and people with children...

To reserve the full refund, using 1983 income tax tables, a single must have an income of \$11,052, a single of 65 or older or blind must have an income of \$13,852, married with so children must have an income of \$21,954 married 65 or older, or both blind must have an income of \$28,132. With one child married must have an income of \$28,654; with two children they must have an income of \$27,954.

Only senators, assemblymen and the higher middle income and up will receive a refund per Proposition 175 net tax statement. Those who need it most will not receive a rent rebate.

... Vote No on Proposition 175.

FOSTER L. ADAMS

Riverside

Staying in the department

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

If Frank Robles is so unhappy with the way the Sheriff's Department is being rul, why hasn't he left to go to greener pastures? He was only hired by the sheriff when the Desert Hot Springs Police Department folded a few years ago — largely due to his ineptness as chief of police....

Larry Smith is a 27-year veteran who has worked his way through the ranks and has learned along the way that you don't promise what you can't deliver. I welcome that kind of honesty in government and ask all of you to join me in voting for Larry Smith on June 7.

EVERETT LELAND

Indio

What's needed for change

Editor. The Press-Enterprise:

Why is it in 22 years Paul Benoit is still only a police officer? How does he plan to go from supervising not even one person to managing the Sheriff's Department with its 2,000-plus employees?...

Mr. Benoît works for Riverside police and has no idea of what needs to be improved in the Shertif's Department. The men and women of the Riverside Shertif's Association do, they have said it's time for change, and the only candidate that is qualified, experienced and endorsed by them to make those changes is Frank Robles.

uberal Democrat for the office of state sension, Clayton Record is foolishly assisting the workings of Willie Brown and other liberal Democrats...

IAMES L SMEDLEY

San Jacinto

Words should mean something

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

Will Rogers once said: "All I know is what I read in the papers." He could have learned a lot from recent letters to you.

"In private" means in a parked car on a public street; "admitted bis mistake" means after denying anything had happened, it was dragged out of him through legal process; "the best man for the job" means one who has been caught in a public indiscretion. Perhaps public office is not the best forum for Mr. Calvert, this not being Massachusetts and all.

Even Will kogers could have been conlused by the recent damage to the English language.

JAMES A. DYER

Moreno Valley

Learning from being humbled

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

White we as Christians all too often improperly judge others, God weighs the minds and hearts of mon. Our Congressman Ken Calvert has admitted his wrong and has also done an outstanding job in representing our needs before Congress. Sometimes we have to be humble before we can be more effective in service to those who have placed their trust in us.

I believe Congressman Caivert will now do a far greater job and it is time for Christians to pray for and support him while voicing their concerns personally to him.

R. M. 'COOK' BARELA

Jurupa

Sweeping sexual hysteria

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

Deso Deti's letter in the May 9 issue speculating on the sexual orientation of the P-E editorial staff is the most laughable thing I've read of outside the comic pages. It marks a new high in the sexual hysteria sweeping the country, all over the sorry affair of a typical Republican hypocrite, Ken Calvert.

My own opinion is that the public is not fooled and will continue its house cleaning of Republic time-servers including Ken Calvert next November.

JAMES REESE

A good city cares for ita

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

It is sad to see how many of it sucally plus trees along Mingrish are being cut down. Being native, I have walked, alked under these trees all my life a like old friends. If we pentuing city to keep its style and gracing that will grow here and dall beauty.

I think you can toll the charact by how it cares for its trees.

Riverside

School's loyal supporters

Editor, The Press-Enterprise: We wish to express our sincer

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werving support for the school armed his intention to keep it superintendent of Catholic school Heding, pledged the full restance at his disposal. Father the Yucaipa parish, responded wand financial support... Your article made the people in the Banning, Raccing Cherry Valley, Calimesa, Yucaipa, Cab

kon, Whitewater and other community school serves aware of its situal response was heartwarming an atrated the deep community factour small parochial school....

RONALD R. 303

Redlands

Mexican flag in Riverside

Editor, The Press-Enterprise:

Well, it looks like the invatakeover of Southern California, complete. Note the large Man painted on a wall at 14th and

The flag makes me feel as if the the border north to Riverside in the of the night. The only thing needs border guards to apprehend these Americans trying in cross tath of

WHY?

EXHIBIT III

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EXHIBIT IV

The Politics of Hate and Race: Not in my County, Not in my Country!

By Joe Khoury Ph.D. Riverside, CA

I have just lost the Republican primary against Mr. Ken Calvert, the incumbent. Calvert won on a campaign of race and fear while proclaiming to a disbelieving Dan Bernstein of The Press Enterprise on the eve of June 2nd. That: "when you make a decision to run a positive campaignIt's the right thing to do". The Calvert strategy portends ill for the Republican Party which desparately needs minority participation in California, and it undermines our democracy.

Calvert, in a repeat performance of his 1994 strategy, found his manager's {Ed Slevin} attacks on my ethnicity and that of my supporters "unfortunate", only to spend tens of thousands of dollars to affirm them in the last days of the campaign. Mr. Slevin's comments seem, in retrospect, to nave been very carefully considered as an integral part of elaborate multidimensional strategy of race baiting. This unfortunate strategy worked in Riverside County. In fact, Mr. Slevin's comments followed a survey reported to us by Mr. Carol Perkins, a Riverside Democrat, who was asked if "It bothered you more if your Congressman was caught with a prostitute or if he were receiving Arab money?".

The Press-Enterprise published two articles: "Calvert campaign uses old strategy" (April 21, 1998) and "Calvert Apology Demanded" (April 30, 1998). Both articles focused on racism in politics and the 43rd Congressional race. Slevin was quoted as saying that my sources of funding were entirely: "Arab American" and that "Joe Khoury has no ties to the districtHe's not from the district".

The publication of these two articles sparked outrage and disgust in the district. Mr. Greg Kraft, an elected school trustee, found the comments revolting enough, to declare on April 29, 1998: "As a past supporter of Calvert, I will do all in my power to encourage the voters to oust this racist and show the public we will not tolerate attacks on fellow Americans because of their ethnicity, religion or gender anymore."

The press was dormant in this contest, however. They had missed the first salvo of racism from the Calvert campaign which was signed by Calvert himself. In a March 24, 1998 letter to the voters of the 43rd. Congressional District Calvert wrote: "Unlike my opponent, I was born and raised in Riverside County". Mr Calvert thought at the time that I was his only opponent despite the fact that Mr. Cook Barela, a Latino American, had already registered as a candidate.

The second salvo was fired by State Senator Ray Haynes, a former supporter of mine and one who promised me in person that "I am staying out of this one". Mr Haynes who had never discussed with me my position on the Middle East, nor seen any of my papers on the Middle East suddenly developed compelling reasons for forgiving Calvert his affirmative vote on MFN for China. In a letter dated March 30, 1998 to Mr. John Seepe, a resident of Lake Elsinore, he wrote: "......but, I worry about Joe's position on Israel....All that I have heard about Joe and his position is that Israel ought to give those [West Bank and Golan Heights] up. I think that would be disastrous for Israel's security, and, from a foreign policy position, would be worse than any of

Ken's positions on China." The letter was sent to a Christian whose support for Israel has a biblical dimension. Had Mr. Haynes checked with me, he would have found that I had already met with the Rabbi in Riverside and that I had offered to appear before the Congregation to explain my position on Israel and to speak about Jewish contributions to American life. The Rabbi was genuinely interested and very hospitable.

This was the second leg of the conspiracy.

The third leg of the conspiracy involved, most unfortunately, certain "leaders" [none of whom had met me or discussed my position on Israel with me] of the Jewish community in Riverside County. In a letter dated May 1998, they stated that: "The bottom line is we have a friend in Ken Calvert. He is a native of our country, county and district........ We trust Ken Calvert and know that he is a loyal friend of the Jewish community.... We do not have the same faith in the opponent, who does not have the same roots in our community". It is interesting, once again, to note that Mr. Barela was not considered an opponent. The letter was accompanied by a letter from four US Congressmen who urged the Jewish community to support Calvert: "....Calvert, has and will always be a leader in strengthening and protecting the special relationship the United States has for the state of Israel. We hope that you will join us in supporting his reelection."

What is most disturbing about this is the fact that I have developed the most constructive and progressive position on Israel related issues and have argued for years for the need of a comprehensive peace. My Jewish and Israeli friends will attest to this.

The fourth leg was the encouragement and the support that Mr. Galen Walker, the husband of Kathy Walker, the Chairperson of the Republican Central Committee of Riverside County, and a professed Khoury supporter, suddenly gave to Mr. Cook Barela. In a letter dated May 25, 1998, Mr. Walker stated: "...Joe Khoury holds dual citizenship in both the United States and his native country, Lebanon. Frankly, I would prefer that my Congressman pledge allegiance to America only." This is precisely what I did when I took the US citizenship oath.

The sentiment was duplicated in a newspaper style brochure mailed by Mr. Barela, who suddenly found the resources to mail a piece to the Republicans in the district. The mailer arrived on that Monday before the election. It stated that: "Yes, there is a question of loyalty and integrity." Page 3 was full of lies and inaccuracies, and erroneously quotes the consul general of Lebanon. Mr. Barela had not filed for his candidacy with the FEC until May 14, 1998. It will be interesting to know what lies were told to Dr. James Dobson to give his endorsement to someone like Cook Barela. This endorsement mystified everyone as I am a family man who was never divorced and who has wonderful children who are outstanding citizens. I am pro-life and pro-family: two critical issues for Dr. Dobson.

The paper contained an insert titled: "The Arab Campaign Connection". It was full of lies and innuendoes. Mr. Barela, targeting only me and never the incumbent, failed to note that I am not a member of any Arab organization and have not accepted money from any organization. And, I

had not asked any organization to intercede on my behalf in the aftermath of the Slevin comments. Those who responded did so on their own. Yes, Mr. Barela," The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance". He forgot the necessary condition for this: telling the truth.

What is interesting in this regard is that Mr. Mattox, who represents Dr. Dobson, called me after the election to apologize profusely for the mistake that was made in endorsing Mr. Barela.

The fifth leg of the conspiracy was Calvert sending out a mailer in the last days of the campaign claiming that "Sarkis Khoury lied about not taking PAC contributions" and listed only the names of Arab-American donors. This was the exact same tactic used in 1994. The fact is I have thoroughly studied the impact of PACS on the American political process and found it to be corrupting. This was a part of a recently published book which I authored. Consequently, I decided that I will never again accept PAC money. The record shows that I did not accept PAC money in 1998. In fact, I have returned a check to a PAC and refused to discuss any PAC contributions with any PAC.

The sixth leg of the conspiracy was the massive phone campaign by a hired agency which misrepresented itself as a survey agency only to proceed to give five reasons, all racially based, why voters should pick Calvert over Sarkis Khoury. I have used my middle name Joe for the ballot, but Calvert's callers insisted on using "Sarkis" instead to emphasize my ethnicity. The calling campaign lasted until the day of the election.

Then, there was the letter from "Officer David Martin" who said":.....A desperate two-time loser (1992 & 1994) who must seek foreign campaign contributions because he cannot even win the support of his own people here in his own home town....I am a Police Officer. I trust Ken Calvert". The letter was placed illegally on car windshields in shopping centers, and was stuffed illegally in mail boxes. Mr. Martin considered contributions from American citizens who happen to have Arabic surnames as "foreign".

This sentiment was echoed by another Ken Calvert supporter to Mr. Bernstein of <u>The Press Enterprise</u>. He could not restrain himself in noting that the victory was achieved using "All American Dollars". Money from Arab-Americans, some of whom contributed to the Calvert campaign, incidentally, appears to be decidedly less American.

What is astonishing about all of this is the fact that not a single Republican Party official or elected official aside from Mr. Kraft voiced an opinion or a concern. Col. Lewis Lee Millett, a Medal of Honor recipient and a true war hero did voice an opinion in his endorsement of my candidacy:" I am deeply concerned that your place of birth (Lebanon) is being used against you by your opponent. That is clearly not the American way". The same sentiment was echoed by Black leaders, led by Mr. Bardo of the Urban League of the Inland Empire.

Our fathers, grandfathers, forefathers in general, came from somewhere. We are all proud, as we must be, of our heritage.

When one racially categorizes a person for negative political reasons, be it Black, Hispanic, Lebanese, Indian, or whatever, he commits an evil act. This cannot be tolerated. Our nation paid dearly in blood for freedom and fairness for all.

No one, not even an elected official, should be allowed to pursue this hateful racial path. As syndicated columnist Armstrong Williams wrote, "The goal to which we should all aspire is that which Martin Luther King and others have achieve: to judge people by the content of their character, their actions and the quality of their service to the nation rather than by the color of their skin." (Conservative Chronicle, Feb. 19, 1997).

I am very proud of my Lebanese heritage, but I am even more proud of the fact that I am an American, a citizen of a country whose people are free to prosper, worship and not be judged by the color of their skin. There have been many Americans of Lebanese descent who have made wonderful contributions to our country. Some examples include the famed heart surgeon Dr. Debakey, Ralph Nader, the late Danny Thomas, Naseeb Saliba (founder of Tudor-Saliba), Harvard Professor Khuri (winner of a Nobel Prize), Joe Jacob (Founder and Chairman of Jacobs Engineering in Pasadena), Senator George Mitchel, Senator Spence Abraham, Donna Shalala (Secretary HHS), John Sununu, Jacque Nasser (new president of Ford), General George Joulwan (former NATO Supreme Allied Commander) and so on. Their contributions to business, to the professions, to entrepreneurship, and to the security of our country are legendary.

I wish also to note that our current Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is foreign born as was the former Chairman of the military Joint Chiefs. In addition, Mr. Henry Kissinger's commitment to the United States was never questioned because of the fact that he was born in Germany.

It does seem fashionable and politically correct to question the patriotism of those born in Lebanon, no matter how open minded they are and no matter their position on the political spectrum. They are per se suspect, no matter their intellectual convictions, their record, their demonstrated commitment to America, and their contributions to American citizens and communities. The intensity of the calls and their viciousness increased markedly in the wake of the Arab bashing in the last few days of the campaign. One person wanted to make sure that I was not a "F..... Muslim."

Until the last days of the campaign, all indicators showed us neck and neck with about 30% undecided. The politics of fear worked even to Calvert's surprise. The crux of the campaign was best summarized in a letter written by long time Riverside County activists Joel and Toni Dingman: "Upon reading the post-election data, we just couldn't believe it!! We were devastated. We truly expected a close race with Khoury votes inching over the top into the lead by a margin of at least one or two percentage points or more...The shock we feel is beginning to translate into anger, especially since the only factor preventing your election seems to have - and I am loathe to say this, but it must be the case - a lot to do with bigotry."